Most of our great men have risen from the common ranks
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But not so. Jesus chose ordinary men- common fisher-

shine in such service.

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But in thinking thus, we are apt to conclude that we

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When Christ was born, service was a degrading thing.

THE MIGHTY HOPES THAT MAKE US MEN.

Ro.8:12 For we are saved by hope.

As we leave the old to enter the New Year we are fired by hopes.

We hope for better times and greater prosperity.
For recovery and increase of health and strength.
For less suffering and sorrow and more joy and happiness.

Have you ever considered the power of hope, its influence upon human endeavor? It is hope that gives us the forward look.

For its consideration, I have chosen a text from Rom.8:12 For we are saved by hope.

Ordinarily Paul's doctrine is Faith. Faith in Jesus Christ.

This apparent contradiction is explained by Sanday. When Paul looked back in thinking of his salvation, he spoke of Faith as the means of its accomplishment. But when he looked forward to what was still to be accomplished in the future, then he thot of Hope as the means of bringing it to pass.

The power of Hope is unquestionable.

"He who doubts is lost" but he who hopes on in spite of disaster and defeat is bound to conquer.

Tennyson, in "In Memorium", after speaking of his love for Arthur Hallam and of his sense of loss over the removal of his dear friend, comes back thus:

" My pulses therefore beat again
For other friends that once I met,
Nor can it suit me to forget
The mighty hopes that make us men."

What wonderful words-The mighty hopes that make us men. Equivalent to Paul's For we are saved by hope.

All who have risen superior to their baser selves, turning defeat into victory have been actuated by some mighty hope. Their vision of a better life and the mighty hope of realizing it spurred them on.

I wish to speak of three such hopes this morning.

I. The hope of being able to do something worth while in the world- the hope of making the world a better place in which to live-safer and happier--the idea of service.

When Christ was born, service was a degrading thing. But X transformed it into a noble thing, a badge of great honor.

Only lately has the world- especially the business world siezed upon the idea of service as a prime motive of action.

Both organizations and individuals stretch forth helping hands in service to the needs of humanity.

The two chubby arms of the babe Jesus have been multiplied and magnified until today millions of full-grown arms of muscle and sinew, prompted by a heart-interest in others reach forth to serve.

The men whom we delight to honor are the men who have done something for others, for the betterment of mankind.

But in thinking thus, we are apt to conclude that we are too commonplace, and our opportunity too limited, to shine in such servuce.

But not so. Jesus chose ordinary men- common fishermen .

Most of our great men have risen from the common ranks.

Consider the influence of a mother upon her child
A teacher upon the pupil
A store-keeper upon a customer
A physician upon a patient.
A friend upon a friend.

It is possible for us all to be of service to others. We members of this church, by taking a greater personal interest in the work, can make the church to be of greater service to the community this year.

II. We not only hope to do something worth while, but we hope also for well-being. Every man who takes himself seriously aspires to be something.

That peace which is above all earthly dignities is a "still and quiet conscience"

The force back of all our altars is this very thing- the securing of a high standing in being.

The great purpose of X in his mission to the world is the saving of humanity from a selfish, evil existance which spells suffering and death, to a life of well-being and useful service which spells eternal life- peace and happiness and joy.

III. And this leads us to our third mighty hope that makes us men- the hope of continuing to be when our earthly existance has come to an end.

Life here is so short and unsatisfactory in so many ways.
The desire to live in better worlds is instinct within- strong and unconquerable.

Con. Man's best help in the realization of these fundamental hopes that are our salvation and that make us men is the Christ himself.

Christ crystalized these hopes in the world.
By means of them Christ has saved countless millions
And by them He expects to save the world itself, ultimately.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.

In Christ, then, let us press on with increased vigor towards that goal which the Savior of the World has set for us.